

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for forming tubular objects from a strip of material comprising:

a frame; and

an expandable circular rolling surface connected to the frame.

2. A method for forming a tubular object, comprising the step of:

engaging a strip of material, having a first edge and a second edge, about a series of rollers, such that the strip of material completes a revolution in an apparatus for forming tubular objects from a strip of material,

wherein the apparatus comprises:

a frame, wherein the frame includes a front plate and a rear plate connected to each other by a plurality of spacers;

a plurality of adjustable arms, each of which individually are longitudinally extendable, are mounted about the front and rear plates and are positioned in a generally semi-circular arrangement about the frame, wherein two adjustable arms are correspondingly mounted relative to each other on the opposite plates; and

a roller is rotatably coupled to each pair of adjustable arms that are correspondingly mounted relative to each other about the frame, such that each roller is individually positionable in a radial direction; and

securing the first of edge of the strip to the second edge of the strip in a helical fashion, thereby forming a tubular pipe.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein one or more of the adjustable arms include a threaded rod, and an extension in threaded engagement to the threaded rod.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein each plate includes an aperture extending therethrough and slots extending radially from the aperture, and wherein the extension includes a flange which engages a slot.
5. The method of claim 3, wherein the threaded rod includes a threaded portion, and the extension includes a threaded ring that engages the threaded portion of the threaded rod.
6. The method of claim 2, wherein each plate is generally octagonal and has an aperture extending therethrough.
7. The method of claim 2, further comprising a plenum coupled to the frame, and a heating source in communication with the plenum.
8. The method of claim 2, further comprising a feeder mechanism coupled to the frame.
9. The method of claim 2, and further comprising a cutting mechanism coupled to the frame.
10. The method of claim 2, wherein the first edge and the second edge of the strip of material have interconnecting structures that form a seal when joined together.
11. The method of claim 2, wherein the first edge and the second edge of the strip of material are adhesively bonded together to form a seal when joined together.